

TOPIC: *INVESTMENT AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION*

KEY ISSUE: *Federal Government Structure*

ISSUES RAISED

- Oceans Department with mandate to protect ecosystem health is in step with where nation is going. (Fujita)
- Independent agency raises question of scale in Washington D.C., could it survive on its own. (Bodman)
- We're never going to assemble all of the ocean-related activities from all the agencies of the Federal government to a single agency. (White)

PRESENTER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create separate federal agency charged with administration of key coastal programs; assemble coastal and ocean programs from NOAA, DOI, DOA, EPA, and Coast Guard. This would streamline federal bureaucracy by reducing duplication, improving efficiency and consolidating staff. (Blane)
- Consider establishing a new Cabinet level department for the oceans that is chartered to protect ocean ecosystems. (Danson)
- Create new ecosystem councils to develop regional ecosystem management plans for the ocean. (Danson)
- Elevate ocean management to Cabinet level guided by new Ocean Policy Act with emphasis on ecosystem protection, rather than extraction, as guiding principle. (Nichols)
- Create regional ocean councils: incorporate regional governance approaches.
- Create Cabinet level Ocean Department:
 - 1) Elevate oceans within federal system;
 - 2) Create coordinating council. (Nothoff)
- Supports proposals for a Cabinet level Oceans Department; overarching policy for protecting ecosystems of biodiversity; regional ecosystem councils; new federal mandate to create a network of marine reserves. [comments on policy elements provided] (Garrison)
- Look at Global Climate Change Research Program as alternative to restructuring government. (Davidson)
- Sea Grant: [discussion of each recommendation is provided]
 - 1) Mission, structure, and functions of National Sea Grant Program be maintained and part of NOAA/DOC;
 - 2) Sea Grant should become nation's primary university-based research, education, training, and technical assistance program in support of coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resource use, management, and conservation;
 - 3) Authorization and appropriations levels should be significantly increased to enable the program to meet the needs and expectations of its varied constituencies;
 - 4) Program should be positioned within NOAA to most effectively contribute to the overall environmental, economic, and educational goals of the agency and nation. (DeVoe)
- Management and conservation of ocean resources should be vested in independent agency outside DOC. As interim step, create a permanent Cabinet level interagency oceans advisory council to coordinate management; an intergovernmental panel on oceans to regularly assess status of oceans, resolve scientific controversies, and set cooperative research priorities. (Rufe)
- Move Fisheries Service to DOI. (Safina)

- If you put all marine agencies together and create independent agency that can connect people to the coast, you create a vision people are ready for. (Helvarg)
- Consider a new location for the ocean agencies. We view the ocean and what is out there in today's world differently than we did in the 1970s when the decision was made to use the Department of Commerce. (Earle)
- Recommend creating an independent oversight body, an independent Federal agency, a scientific advisory committee. It would oversee the conservation of fishery resources, their habitats and related ecosystems, components of U.S. waters, with specific emphasis on precautionary principles, promoting sound decision making, ecosystem based fishery management, fostering interagency coordination in research and management. (Earle)
- In order to get the level of resources, level of growth, and level of commitment we need, need to have a department at the cabinet level. The government works effectively as an agency if we can make sure the passion is strong. (Berry)
- Recommend the Commission adequately employ the National Ocean Council and the executive branch. Coordination and organization should be part of the primary function. The Council should process decision making as well, and be held accountable for the nation's oceans in addition to the Federal agency representatives of the regional ocean councils who are members of the National Ocean Council. (Hamilton)
- The development of some new structure, perhaps an interagency council with leadership from the White House, would enable agencies of government to talk to one another more frequently and more effectively. (Reilly)
- Be cautious against any structural change that adds complexity and additional bureaucracy, or that does not clearly streamline and reduce layering. (Kurkul)
- Institutional, budgetary and governance aspects of coastal and ocean resources must be elevated as a national priority and implemented through an integrated approach led at the Federal level by a new, independent Ocean Agency with a Congressional mandate to ensure the protection and sustainable use of coastal and ocean resources. [discussion provided] Delaney)
- A coordinated body is needed that has input from the executive branch through the Office of Management and Budget that would deal with an integrated ocean policy implementation scheme that carries out policy, not just state a policy. It must be worked between the executive and legislative branches. (Stevens)
- Congress should create a new, independent agency (a Department of the Oceans) to implement U.S. Oceans policy, coordinate and regulate activities impacting ocean organisms, ecosystems, and habitats, and to oversee and administer funding for scientific research concerning ocean ecosystems. (Van Tuyn)
- Remove NMFS from the Department of Commerce (which is inherently biased in favor of commercial interests) and create a new Department of the Oceans. (Sterne)
- It is better to separate the regulation from the science within agencies. I would like to see an agency put together with parts of NOAA, USGS, and other organizations, as an independent agency with clout. The agency would have three components; observations, services, and research. (McPherson)
- At least take NOAA and make it an independent ocean agency that can operate separately in the ocean's area. (Panetta)
- NOAA could probably stand on its own but should add some marine operations at Interior and even Dept. of Agriculture. (Panetta)

- Consider recommending the establishment of a new institutional framework for the conduct of oceanic and related environmental activities. Seriously consider wedding the Geological Survey and NOAA into an Ocean and Environment Administration. Serious consideration should also be given to divesting NOAA of certain conflicting regulatory functions. In this way the new institution would become the authoritative agency for observing, predicting, and assessing the environment, serving all governmental and private sector needs. (White)
- I would look at the Corps and see whether the things that relate to the oceans, would they be better off in a new agency than they are in the Corps. (White)
- If we are truly to set the stage for revamping national ocean policy, we must turn to Congress and look at how better to integrate these interests within the legislative framework. Two options deserve further consideration: a joint House-Senate Oceans Committee (similar to the Joint Economic Committee) and a temporary or select Committee on Ocean Affairs established to evaluate and implement the recommendations from both the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. (Schwabacher)
- An Ocean Policy Coordinator could be established in the Executive Office of the President, such as in the Office of Management and Budget. The purpose of this coordinator would be to establish and maintain a collaborative mechanism through which the various Federal agencies would agree upon and implement policy goals and objectives. (Fry)
- We recommend that the Commission support establishing a coordinating body composed of government agencies, academic representatives and industry trade groups that could begin to tackle the complex logistics involved. An adequate framework may already exist in the National Office for Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observation (“Ocean. US”) and the National Oceanographic Partnership Program. A sub-group of this partnership, with Minerals Management Service as the lead agency might begin by tackling individual issues on a discrete basis and resolving concerns in a prudent manner. (Fry)

TOPIC: *INVESTMENT AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION*

KEY ISSUE: *Federal Budget Process*

ISSUES RAISED

- Department of State can help other agencies at OMB and Congress with Department of State related priorities. (West, MB)
- Horizontal budget coordination is primarily role of OMB. (West, MB)
- Funding must be available for research and monitoring programs, public education and outreach, enforcement, and technical capacity. (Evans, N)

PRESENTER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Set minimum cap on T21 funds for environmental improvements. (Gold)
- Look at grants and loans to acquire interests in real property worthy of conservation: state and federal programs needed like CARA. (Stallworth)
- Need strong OSTP tied directly to OMB: people listen if you have money. (Alberts)
- Look at broader cross-section of investment potential as well as OCS revenue. (MacDonald)
- Oceans Act a potential new mechanism for cross-cutting budget review/analysis through biannual report. (West, MB)
- If NOAA budget is to increase, need to rebuild interest and get away from downsized government. (Hollings)
- Establish an ocean budget that comprehensively details efforts and funding dedicated to ocean related activities. (Giles)
- Support more funding for Coast Guard for enforcement. (Lee)
- Sufficient resources to support research are important. For example, we need resources to meet the requirement of reporting to the Coast Guard. Resources for technology are also important. (Smitch)
- The priority scheme for funding is very difficult. The resources and the infrastructure necessary to do what is needed are lacking. More oceans related funding is needed. (Smitch)
- Make meaningful investment in ocean and coastal management at the national, regional and state level. (Evans, N)
- A tax policy, tax incentives, are needed to help deal with direct impact. Whether it is on acquisition or easement protection, providing and creating a national tax policy that reimburses and rewards private stewardship to protect these critical habitats and resources. This would be not just in the coastal area, but also throughout the country. The only way we'll deal with it to that scale is to have a tax policy. (Berry)
- We must be defined as important enough to justify a substantial scientific commitment and important enough to be put into the budget. We must have support on Capitol Hill, with not just the senators from Alaska, but also throughout the Congress and the House. (Newton)
- Seek support for Coast Guard programs to recapitalize aging assets. (Underwood)
- Alaska needs help in finding a way to cross-cut Federal budgets. (Parker)

- Agencies need to ask for money in their budgets for environmental observation and prediction. (White)
- Formally request a doubling of authorization and appropriations levels for the National Sea Grant College Program to enable the program to meet the needs and expectations of its varied constituencies. (DeVoe)
- The National Marine Sanctuary System remains severely under funded and should, at a minimum, be funded at the authorized level of \$40 million for operation and \$10 million for construction. However, this minimum level is, in our view, still egregiously inadequate. Serious consideration should be given to significantly increasing funding for this program. As you will see in our analysis below, we believe \$400 million would be a more appropriate annual funding level, especially when system expansion is accounted for. (Cousteau)
- It must be a priority to at least restore the ocean science portion of the federal basic research budget to its historic level of 7 percent. (West)
- Support sustained and dedicated funding, investment, and other incentives for state and local governments to address priority coastal and ocean ecosystem management problems (includes three specific recommendations). (CSO)

